The Fourth University of Maryland

SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTH DISPARITIES

University of Maryland, College Park
Stamp Student Union
May 12, 2018

7:30 - 9:00 AM..........................Registration & Exhibitor Setup

9:00 - 9:30 AM..........................KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Destiny Watford, Free Your Voice
                                  Grand Ballroom (1206)

9:40 - 10:55 AM..........................Concurrent Sessions

11:05 - 12:20 PM..........................Concurrent Sessions

12:20 - 1:20 PM..........................Networking Lunch
                                  Grand Ballroom (1206)

2:45 - 4:00 PM..........................Concurrent Session IV

4:10 - 5:10 PM..........................CLOSING PANEL: Reflection and Next Steps

Destiny Watford inspired and organized residents of Baltimore’s Curtis Bay neighborhood to stop the construction of the nation’s largest incinerator less than a mile away from her high school.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9:40 - 10:55 AM

Session A1

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE PORT TOWNS:
Exposing Cumulative Impacts; Restoring Health, and Building Local Sustainability Through Citizen Science and Activism

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

MODERATOR: Nancy J. Meyer, Chair, Port Towns CDC (PTCDC) and Port Towns Environmental Action (PTEA)

PANELISTS:
- Chris Melendez, Port Towns Environmental Action and PTCDC
- Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor, University of Maryland (UMD) School of Public Health, MIAEH
- Paul Howe, PTCDC and PTEA

This panel will address the work of a group of citizen activists in the Port Towns area of Prince George's County and their efforts to identify environmental harms while advocating for creating sustainable community development based on a commitment to the principles of environmental justice.

Session A2

ACTION: The role of scientists, non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups in securing environmental justice and improving health equity

LOCATION: Thurgood Marshall - Room 2113

MODERATOR: Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá, Assistant Professor, UMD School of Public Health

PANELISTS:
- Ami Zota, George Washington University
- Kristie Trousdale, Children's Environmental Health Network
- Walkiria Pool, President, Centro de Apoyo Familiar

Building healthy and resilient communities in the face of heightening environmental threats has become increasingly crucial with regressive environmental policies being enacted. In this session, panelists will share community-led initiatives as a tactic to address a lack of political safeguards for healthy environments. This session will also include discussions around the power of community-led initiatives for creating sustained environmental health promotion.
Session A3

**ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** Opportunities and Equity

**LOCATION:** Nanticoke – Room 1238

**MODERATOR:** Ramon Palencia-Calvo, Chispa Maryland – Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV)

**PANELISTS:**
- Ernesto Vargas, LCV-Chispa
- Lyn Griffith-Taylor, Marylanders for Energy Democracy and Affordability
- Josh Tulkin, Director of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Maryland made a strong commitment to reduce carbon emissions through its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act, requiring a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030. To achieve this goal, Maryland needs to significantly reduce emissions from the transportation sector. The recently signed Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding (“ZEV MOU”), an eight-state agreement to put at least 3.3 million ZEVs on the road in those states including Maryland by 2025, is a great opportunity to electrify the transport sector and reduce emissions. This panel will discuss EV technologies, exploring ways to adopt EV technologies in an equitable manner.

Session A4

**EASTERN SHORE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND CAFOs:**
Multi-state Panel to Discuss EJ Issues, Public Health, and Legal Strategies

**LOCATION:** Margaret Brent A – Room 2112

**MODERATOR:** Maria Payan, Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP)

**PANELISTS:**
- Monica Brooks, Community Activist, Wicomico County, MD
- Kenny Haynes, Community Activist, Protecting our Indian River, Delaware
- Gina Burton, Community Activist, Millsboro, DE
- Chris Nidel, Nidel Law, PLLC

Members of vulnerable communities from Delaware and Maryland and an environmental attorney discuss the challenges and health threats regarding industrialized animal production and processing, and legal strategies to hold polluters and regulatory agencies accountable.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS, continued
9:40 - 10:55 AM

Session A5
INDUSTRIAL HAZARDS, AIR POLLUTION, AND HEALTH EFFECTS
LOCATION: Margaret Brent B - 2112
MODERATOR: Ana Rule, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
PANELISTS:
- Larry Bannerman, Community Activist and board member, Turner Station Conservation Teams
- Barbara Bates-Hopkins, Community Relations Coordinator, Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Anna Scott, PhD student and founder of Baltimore Open Air project, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Johns Hopkins University

Power and equity are issues that affect all of us, all the time. This session will showcase individual perspectives on how we each are grappling with the opportunities and challenges that are inherent to prioritizing this important work as a critical piece of the Choose Clean Water and Chesapeake Bay Funders Network.

Session A6
ACHIEVING EQUITY ACROSS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED
LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker B - Room 2212
MODERATOR: Rianna Murray, PhD Candidate (environmental health), UMD School of Public Health, MIAEH
PANELISTS:
- Darius Stanton, Chesapeake Bay Program, US EPA
- Mariah Davis, Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Bre'Anna Brooks, Chesapeake Bay Trust

This interactive session will bring together speakers from academia, non-profit organizations and advocacy groups to discuss how their work informs and shapes policies at the local, state, and federal levels and how to move forward to continue translating knowledge into action to protect vulnerable communities (or vulnerable populations).
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
11:05 - 12:20 PM

Session B1

FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD JUSTICE ACROSS THE LIFECOURSE

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

MODERATOR: Devon Payne-Sturges, Assistant Professor, UMD School of Public Health, MIAEH
• Chloe Marshall, Prince George's Food Equity Council and Capital Area Food Bank
• Yu-Wei Wang, Research Director, Assistant Director, UMD Counseling Center
• Alice Huang, Food Access Planner, City of Baltimore, Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability, Baltimore Food Policy Initiative
• Amanda L. Nesher, Food Security Programs Manager, Montgomery County Food Council

During this session, speakers will share latest information on the extent of food insecurity or food injustice issues in our respective communities and how these issues disproportionately impact youth, young adults, seniors, and African American residents; and they will highlight actions that are being taken to address these problems.

Session B2

BUZZARD POINT–THE UNTOLD STORY OF A COMMUNITY FIGHTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker A - Room 2212

MODERATOR: Kari Fulton, Near Buzzard Point Resilient Action Committee (NeRAC)

PANELISTS:
• Alisha Camacho, Near Buzzard Point Resilient Action Committee (NeRAC)
• Rhonda Hamilton, Near Buzzard Point Resilient Action Committee (NeRAC)
• Pat Bishop, Resident, Buzzard Point Community, Washington, DC
• Shizuka Hsieh, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Trinity Washington University

The Buzzard Point Community has been battling poor air quality, exposure to contaminated soil from a massive brownfield site, and environmental hazards sited in the community. These residents, their health and rights to a good quality of life in the nation's capital have been overlooked to accommodate the interest of multi-million dollar developments. The panelists will share the story of this vulnerable community.
Session B3

**CAFOs AND HEALTH II: Community Health Air Act Case Study**

**LOCATION:** Margaret Brent A – Room 2112

**MODERATOR:** Kathy Phillips, Assateague Coastkeeper

**PANELISTS:**
- **Keeve Nachman, Assistant Professor,** Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
- **Monica Brooks,** SRAP
- **Kirkland Hall,** Assistant Professor, UMD Eastern Shore

This panel will look at how the Community Healthy Air Act came to be a Maryland legislative priority for residents of the Lower eastern shore of Maryland, at a time when the poultry industry launched a massive expansion of industrial scale chicken growing operations in Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties. They will discuss the resulting threats to the public health and the environment caused by state agencies rubber-stamping permits critical to water safety and poultry industry lobbyists writing local county zoning amendments.

Session B4

**CRITICAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROMOTION**

**LOCATION:** Nanticoke – Room 1238

**MODERATOR:** Yinka Bode-George, Program Manager, Maryland Environmental Health Network (MEHN)

**PANELISTS:**
- **Dawn Biehler,** Associate Professor, UMBC
- **Walkiria Pool,** Centro De Apoyo Familiar
- **Curtis Bennet,** Director of Conservation Community Engagement, National Aquarium

Baltimore has been impacted for decades by industrial waste and air pollution, and the impacts of this pollution disproportionately affect lower income communities in the Baltimore region. This session centers around some of the most impacted communities, and a new project that is bridging the air pollution monitoring gap with low cost sensor technology. Our panel discussion will feature topics around industrial waste, air pollution, health consequences, and solutions.
**Session B5**

**NATURAL GAS IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH:** Cove Point, Compressor Stations and Western Maryland Community Voices

**LOCATION:** Margaret Brent B - Room 2112

**MODERATOR:** Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor, UMD School of Public Health

**PANELISTS:**
- Kelly Canavan, President, AMP Creeks Council
- Margaret Flowers, Pediatrician and Community Organizer, Cove Point
- Ana Rule, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Maryland’s ban on fracked natural gas erroneously marked the end of natural gas infrastructure (NGI), and the numerous health impacts associated, in Maryland. This session centers around the ongoing fight against NGI in Maryland and its toll on communities throughout the state. The panel will discuss topics around Maryland’s NGI history, community activism, health consequences, and solutions.

**Session B6**

**FOSSIL FUEL BY RAIL AND HEALTH:** Issues and Impacts in Baltimore

**LOCATION:** Thurgood Marshall - Room 2113

**MODERATOR:** Irene Gorski, PhD Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**PANELISTS:**
- Genee Smith, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Valerie Butler, Community Activist and Mount Winans Resident
- Emma Cogan, MPH Candidate, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Crude oil by rail traffic has expanded in recent years due in large part to hydraulic fracturing. This poses public health concerns, particularly for communities that are close to the rail lines. In this session, panelists will discuss their work to assess crude oil by rail traffic and local efforts to address this issue including new legislation in the City of Baltimore.
NETWORKING LUNCH
12:20 - 1:20PM

LOCATION: Grand Ballroom (1206)

• Posters about environmental justice and health disparities
• Exhibitor’s Hall attendees will have a chance to visit the Exhibitor’s Hall to learn about groups working on environmental health and justice issues, youth education, public health, and STEM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:20-2:35PM

Session C1
TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ISSUES IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

LOCATION: Margaret Brent B - Room 2112

MODERATOR: Willow Lung-Amam, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies and Planning & Director of Community Development, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, University Maryland

PANELISTS:
• Gerrit Knaap, Executive Director, UMD National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education & Chair, Purple Line Corridor Coalition.
• Jennifer Roberts, Assistant Professor, UMD School of Public Health, Department of Kinesiology
• Samuel Jordan, President, Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition
• Julio Murillo, CASA de Maryland

Transit infrastructure is an essential component of creating more equitable cities and metropolitan areas. This panel will bring together scholars and community activists to discuss transit equity within Maryland by looking at two of largest proposed transit infrastructure projects of the last few decades—the Purple Line in suburban Washington, DC and the cancelled Red Line in Baltimore. Panelists will discuss equity of transit investments across the state, health outcomes related to transit access, gentrification, equitable transit-oriented development, and political activism and coalition-building around transit issues.
Session C2

POLICY ORGANIZING AND ACTION FOR CHANGE

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

MODERATOR: Charles Lee, APHA Environment Section, Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Sub-Committee

PANELISTS:
- Adrienne L. Hollis, Director of Federal Policy, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Leslie Fields, National Environmental Justice Director, Sierra Club
- Vivek Maru, Chief Executive Officer, Namati: Innovations in Legal Empowerment
- Yudith A. Nieto, Cultural Organizer, Another Gulf is Possible, Another Gulf.com

This session is an opportunity to hear from entities working with environmental justice groups about successful approaches and tools for working with state, local and federal agencies, and others. In the session, presenters will also have an opportunity to receive feedback from attendees, environmental and/or public health agencies, universities and other stakeholders.

Session C3

A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REGULATING NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker A - Room 2212

MODERATOR: Irena Gorski, PhD Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

PANELISTS:
- Len Zuza, Resident, Solomons, Maryland
- Sam Rubright, Manager of Communications and Partnerships, FracTracker Alliance
- Yinka N. Bode-George, Maryland Environmental Health Network (MEHN)

As the natural gas infrastructure (NGI) continues to pollute environments in the state, it is imperative to employ regulations that protect the health of all Marylanders. During this session, panelists will share existing gaps in the regulation of NGI including the lack of safeguards for public health protection. Additionally, panelists will discuss recommendations for regulation improvements and strategies to better detect and monitor pollution through citizen science including the use of the FracTracker app.
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS, continued**

1:20 - 2:35 PM

**Session C4**

**ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN OUR WASTE SYSTEM:** Incineration vs. Zero Waste from Lorton, Virginia to Baltimore, Maryland

**LOCATION:** Margaret Brent A - Room 2112

**MODERATOR:** Mike Ewall, Director, Energy Justice Network

**PANELISTS:**
- Mary Jane Reyes, Community Activist, Lorton, Virginia
- Dante Swinton, Organizer, Energy Justice Network
- Robin Lewis, Community Activist, Accokeek, Maryland

**Session C5**

**DEMONSTRATION OF THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING TOOL (MD-EJUST)**

**LOCATION:** Thurgood Marshall -- Room 2113

**WORKSHOP LEAD:**
- Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor, UMD School of Public Health

Many communities of color and low-income populations are impacted by environmental injustice in the state of Maryland. To understand and address these issues through new regulations, enforcement, zoning changes, and community investments, we need tools—including data visualization tools. The National Center for Smart Growth recently developed an environmental justice mapping tool for Maryland known as (MD-EJUST). This tool uses both the US EPA’s EJ Screen tool and California’s EJ Screen tool as models. During this session, attendees will learn about MD-EJUST and participate in a demonstration of the tool.
CONCURRENT SESSION IV
2:45 - 4:00PM

Session D1
CITIZEN SCIENCE TRAINING ON REAL-TIME SENSORS

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

WORKSHOP LEAD:
- Rosemary Ezeugoh, MPH Candidate (environmental health), UMD School of Public Health, MIAEH

This session will cover air pollution and its effects on human health. Participants will learn about particulate matter and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and how to monitor their exposure using the AirBeam and Atmotube, two low cost real-time sensors. In addition, this session will include a hands-on demonstration on the use of the real-time air pollution sensors for citizen science research.

Session D2
LEGAL TOOLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker A - Room 2212

PANELISTS:
- Khushi Desai, Earthjustice, Healthy Communities Staff Attorney
- Alayna Chuney, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Environmental Justice Staff Attorney
- Seema Kakade, UMD Carey School of Law, Environmental Law Clinic Director
- Chinyere Osuala, Earthjustice, Clean Energy Senior Associate Attorney

This will be an informal discussion about how citizens can effectively navigate and use Maryland law to protect their communities from government actions that threaten human health and lead to environmental injustice. We will provide a brief overview of key laws in Maryland with a focus on citizens’ rights to information; meaningful participation in agency decision-making processes and judicial review. We will offer examples of how these tools can be used to advocate for protective pollution permits and standards, energy policies, and zoning determinations. We encourage citizens to come with questions and contribute to an active discussion!
Session D3

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (PATI)

LOCATION: Thurgood Marshall - Room 2113

WORKSHOP LEAD:
- Marcus Hendricks, Assistant Professor, UMD School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Climate change and increasing natural hazards coupled with years of deferred maintenance have added pressure to stormwater infrastructure in urban areas. Thus, monitoring for failure of these systems is crucial to prevent future impacts to life and property. Participatory assessment technique for infrastructure (PATI) is a citizen science technique for monitoring and assessing the hydraulic capacity and physical condition of stormwater infrastructure. Through outdoor visual surveying and a series of pass-or-fail performance standards, this technique can provide numerical data on the relative condition of stormwater features and inform maintenance activities and risks of flooding. This training workshop will introduce the motivation behind the technique, provide basic training for utilizing the technique, and a short interactive in-field demonstration of the technique with a select few performance standards.

Session D4

I-TREE TRAINING: A Tool for Environmental Justice

LOCATION: Nanticoke - Room 1238

WORKSHOP LEAD:
- Sarah Anderson, Lillie Leaf Solutions

Have you ever wondered why some neighborhoods have trees while others only have concrete? Well-canopied neighborhoods are healthier, richer, and whiter than other neighborhoods on average. Join this session to hear from Lillie Leaf Solutions CEO Sarah Lillie Anderson about how to use i-Tree Tools to advocate for healthy tree canopy in your community. We will cover the basics of urban forestry, key stakeholders, and how grassroots advocates can hold private and public entities accountable for maintaining healthy urban trees.
Session D5

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCORECARD FOR LEGISLATORS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

LOCATION: Margaret Brent A - Room 2112

WORKSHOP LEAD:
• Ayana Jones, MPH Candidate (health equity), UMD School of Public Health

A legislative scorecard is a useful tool to educate citizens about voting records of their elected officials. In this workshop, we will describe the development of the environmental justice scorecard for the Maryland State House of Delegates. We will present scores from the 2018 legislative session and compare the scores of Democrats and Republicans. Lastly, we will discuss the utility of the scorecard for Maryland residents and grassroots advocacy organizations – describing how the scorecard can be a tool in educating residents and holding elected officials accountable in addressing environmental injustice and public health issues.

Session D6

DC CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING: Problems & Solutions

LOCATION: Margaret Brent B - Room 2112

WORKSHOP LEADS:
• Krystina White, Director of Strategic Alliances, Black Millennials for Flint
• Michelle Mabson, Director of Advocacy, Black Millennials for Flint

In this session, panelists will provide a thorough analysis of the passing of the DC Childhood Lead Prevention Amendment Act of 2017. Session attendees will be introduced to the political advocacy, coalition building, and canvassing strategies that led to the passing of one of the most robust school district and public facility lead prevention bills in the country. Panelists will share a legislative implementation map that will serve as an adaptable accountability resource. The session will culminate with a call to action where attendees will be equipped with a lead prevention blueprint to engage their respective local elected officials.
CLOSING PANEL: REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS
4:10 - 5:10 PM

LOCATION: Grand Ballroom - Room 1206

MODERATOR: Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor, UMD School of Public Health

PANELISTS:
- Destiny Watford, Free Your Voice
- Nancy J. Meyer, Chair, Port Towns CDC (PTCDC) and Port Towns Environmental Action (PTEA)
- Ramon Palencia-Calvo, Chispa Maryland - Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
- Kamita Gray, President, Brandywine | TB Southern Region Neighborhood Coalition, Brandywine, MD

SPONSORS

Many thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible!